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Agenda item 7

PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE WORLD CONFERENCE AND DOCUMENTATION, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE FINAL OUTCOME

Recommendations concerning the provisional agenda of the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparation submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 45/155

Report of the Secretary-General

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RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN CONSULTATIVE STATUS .....

International Federation on Ageing

American Association of Retired Persons

GE.92-14082/0931K (E)

HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST OLDER PERSONS

1. The International Federation on Ageing (IFA) and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) request that the World Conference on Human Rights address the issue of human rights violations against older persons - violations which are extensive in developed and developing countries alike.

2. Human rights violations against older persons take many forms. Examples include persistent age discrimination in the hiring, promotion and dismissal of older workers, the unavailability of credit to older persons, the denial of the right to participate in development, and pernicious practices in institutional forms of care.

3. Older persons are the most rapidly increasing age group in the population all over the world, yet their increasing numbers and the infringement of their rights have received scant, if any attention in most countries or in the United Nations human rights machinery. For example, member Governments have not been requested to include ageing in their reports regarding the implementation of two major international covenants - those dealing with civil and political rights and with economic, social and cultural rights.

4. The particularly large increase in the numbers of the very old - those over 80 years of age - demands special attention because it is this group among the elderly who are often the most vulnerable and the least able to protect their rights.

5. Some attention has begun to be paid. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/91 of 16 December 1991, approved a set of United Nations Principles for Older Persons which identifies 18 key principles that Governments should recognize in order to assure all older persons independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity. The Commission on the Status of Women meeting in March 1992 requested that the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women include age discrimination within its purview when reviewing national reports on the implementation of the Convention and that the Preparatory Committee for the World Conference on Human Rights include discrimination on grounds of age and sex on the agenda for that conference.

6. The year 1992 commemorates the tenth anniversary of the United Nations World Assembly on Ageing which produced the far-reaching International Plan of Action on Ageing on which the United Nations Principles for Older Persons are, in part, based. Would it not be appropriate for the World Conference on Human Rights to acknowledge the importance of this event by also addressing the human rights concerns of older persons everywhere?